

NEW YORK HERALD

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SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1921.

\$500,000,000 for Religion.

The Census Bureau reports that the principal religious bodies in the United States receive contributions aggregating about \$500,000,000 from their members every year. This is at the rate of about a third as much as the people of the United States spent a year for admission to the moving picture theatres when the latest survey of that industry was made.

There were about 105,000,000 inhabitants of the United States in 1920, and of these 40,000,000 are credited with allegiance to religious organizations. The \$500,000,000 contributed to religious causes figures out at a little less than \$5 a year a head for the population, and at \$12.50 a head a year for those holding membership in religious bodies. The per capita expenditure for moving pictures figures out at about \$13.70 a year.

The people get their religious instruction at a pretty low cost. The ministrations for which they expend \$500,000,000 a year are worth a great deal more than that.

The New Philharmonic.

The first concert of the Philharmonic Society has convinced those generous gentlemen who are desirous of making New York's oldest orchestra a part of its municipal life that the material for the best artistic results will be behind their efforts. Had not the musical capacity of the organization proved equal to the career planned for it their efforts might have been in vain. Any possible doubt was set at rest after the players were heard together for the first time.

The future which CLARENCE H. MACKAY has planned for the orchestra seems inevitable in these days. It is not enough that an ambitious organization should confine its artistic activities to its own series of concerts, whether they be held in Carnegie Hall or the Metropolitan Opera House. Successful as they might be from an artistic point of view, the powers of such an institution would be regrettably limited. Already the directors have announced their intention of having concerts by the Philharmonic Society in Columbia University, the stadium of the College of the City of New York and other public centres. The purpose of these gentlemen is summed up in the declaration of their intention to make the new Philharmonic Society "a permanent and constructive cultural force."

There is no more certain element of success for such a praiseworthy plan than the excellence of the orchestra in its present enlarged form. Having achieved what was the most difficult part of the undertaking, the rest of the society's destiny ought to be readily attainable.

The names newly added to the board of directors of the Philharmonic Society promise that its interests will be extended over a wide field. They represent a variety of civic sympathies. An advisory board of men and women which will act in consultation with the executive board and thus aid in the enlargement of the scope of the Philharmonic Society is projected. All this preparation for a good work might be futile, however, if its first concert had not proved the orchestra artistically fit in the highest degree for its fruitful labors.

John Brown in New Company.

That rioters who tore down the British flag at a British Empire Union meeting in London on Thursday should have sung "John Brown's Body" as they carried on their attack adds a strange incident to the history of a celebrated song.

The melody is said to have been heard first at a religious gathering of negroes in the South, and fitted to the words "Say, brothers, will you meet us" at a Young Men's Christian Association meeting in Albany in 1860. The music was set to the words of the first stanza of the song as it is now known by JAMES E. GREENLEAF. The other stanzas were written in 1861 by C. S. HALL of Charlestown, Massachusetts. The record of the song is fully set forth

SONGS AND THOSE WHO MADE THEM.

The song became one of the most popular of marching choruses among the Federal troops in the civil war, lending itself readily to parodies. Its popularity survived the struggle and it was a favorite among political song composers. Everybody could sing it, and almost everybody did. Its background, however, is anything except revolutionary; its singers in the '60s and afterward did not want to destroy a government but to preserve and extend it.

The Good Old Middle Ages.

Most people, if they have any idea at all of the Middle Ages, are apt to think of a rather indefinite period when robber barons and knights went about gathering in spoils and scattering death. This view is mistaken if we are to trust the studies and investigations of those persons who refuse to accept with complacent confidence the dictum that everything is better to-day than it was yesterday. The Middle Ages, according to these investigators, were not so bad or so rough as they have been represented; they, in fact, offer a refutation of the theory of social evolution, which G. STUBBS TAYLOR says in the *Nineteenth Century* and *After* was to the effect that the vast drama of life "proceeded satisfactorily from a sort of jellyfish on the beach of some hot paleozoic sea until it reached the dizzy height of a man."

Mr. TAYLOR would not have the twentieth century believe that all was perfect in medieval times. There were robber barons in those days and some of them were cruel tyrants, but the services which they could demand from their subjects were fixed by custom and not by arbitrary rule of the lord. The baron had his duties as well as his rights, and one of his important duties was to protect his people and to respect the laws which they enacted. He did most of the fighting, for the peasant's obligations ceased when he performed his duties as a member of the local military organization in home defence. The well-to-do gentleman got the spoils of aggressive warfare and medieval law provided that he should do the fighting.

Kings figured then as little as kings in exile do to-day. There was a king of the English and a king of the French, but their rule in most cases was less powerful than the government of a modern state, either republic or monarchy. The power of ruling was in the hands of the small social units of society of which the kingdom was composed. If London or Paris had suddenly disappeared from the map and the king and all his officials had vanished "England or France would not have been overwhelmed by the disaster, for they in the main ruled themselves and judged themselves in their own courts," Mr. TAYLOR says.

"Medieval life was a maze of carefully defined social relationships, but this code was not drawn up and enforced by a king or a central council. It was planned and promulgated by those small groups of citizens who met together in their county and hundred courts, in their trading guilds and their manorial and borough councils."

While in medieval society there was little central government, it does not mean that anarchical conditions existed or that there was lack of order or laws. It was a time when men were controlled by an elaborate code of social regulations. The training of the medieval man was to place the welfare of the whole society before any advantage to himself as an individual. The Middle Ages surpassed all other periods "in its passion for the group form. It was the period of the guilds. Wardens inspected workshops in order that craftsmen should not compete unfairly against their fellows or cheat their customers. No member of a guild could steal a march on his comrades by working at night or holidays, and it was considered that work done in such times was likely to be bad work and thus dishonest work. There was too a rule that a good bargain in stock or raw material must be shared by all members of the guild. There was little overproduction; "normal man regarded his work as the supplying of goods and services which his neighbors asked of him."

There was selfish fighting in medieval times, but there were in reality fewer pillaging raids between rival barons than some historians have represented. It was a rule that soldiers who did violence to women, priests or pilgrims or to farmers' stock or tools or churches should be excommunicated by the Church. By the Truce of God all fighting was forbidden from every Wednesday to the following Monday morning, during Lent and Advent, and on festival days of the Virgin, the Apostles and many of the saints. "Having just seen all Europe fighting for four years, except the first Christmas Day," says Mr. TAYLOR, "we are in a position to recognize this as another noteworthy difference between the medieval system and the modern."

The medieval man lived in close touch with nature; he did not wander far from home and when he travelled he knew every foot of the way because he rode or walked. He had few books and no politicians. The Church was perhaps the greatest in-

fluence in his life, for it not only taught him how to die in safety to his soul but it gave continual orders concerning the everyday affairs of his life. The medieval man drove the usurer and the profiteer out of the Church and out of decent society. "Modern society," Mr. TAYLOR observes, "more usually makes them both millionaires and peers." And summing up the economic phases of the Middle Ages he says that the great ethical principle of the period was that it was immoral to exceed the just price or to take usury.

Even with this pleasing picture of their spirit of democracy, their altruism, industrial cooperation and economic fairness we must still believe that the Middle Ages had their ups and downs as did the ages before and afterward. The old world has progressed considerably since the Middle Ages, although it has suffered some hard jolts. At least, who wishes to go back to them? The poets may believe we should better our lot by returning to the ways of our forebears, but should we do so we should pack our memories away and rid ourselves of all reminders of the things we enjoy in our day. About the best we can do is to stop abusing them.

To Safeguard the Ballot.

The Honest Ballot Association wants 2,000 volunteers for the coming election. These will be instructed, upon application at the association's headquarters, 7 West Eighth street, in the work of safeguarding the voting.

Last year there was an election scandal when marked ballots were thrown into a sewer on the East Side. Through the efforts of the association twelve indictments in this case were obtained.

The association has engaged as many paid workers as its funds will permit and it now has to depend, for a thorough covering of the city, on citizens who are willing to give their time to the cause.

The Racing Season of 1921.

The racing season of 1921 closed with the running of the final event on the programme of the Empire City Racing Association yesterday afternoon for those who live in and around New York and take their pleasure on the courses which operate under the jurisdiction of the Jockey Club.

It was a remarkable season in many respects. The sustained interest in the sport from the opening day at Jamaica to the close at the Yonkers track, in the hills of Westchester, excited the comment of those who were in touch with conditions in other sports in which there was a falling off in attendance as compared with 1920—a condition attributed to the pinch of hard times.

Another striking feature of the season was the manner in which prices held for blood stock offerings. These sales are the barometer which measures the health of the sport, for it racing did not have a devoted following with a belief in its perpetuation as an institution there would be little demand for the products of the various farms which are marketed annually as yearlings in the East, chiefly at Saratoga during the meeting there in August. The average for the current year surpassed all previous records in this country by \$333, the 267 head disposed of at Saratoga bringing \$768,700, an average price of \$2,879.02. The best previous showing was in 1919, with its average of \$2,641.37 for 238 head. For the first time in the history of the thoroughbred breeding industry in the United States this year's average was slightly better than the average at the Newmarket July sales in England.

There was some spirited bidding for choice lots at Saratoga, but it was the sustained interest throughout the season for racing material as well as young stock that pleased those who have made sacrifices to keep the sport alive in this country.

The increase in stakes and purses and the improvements made at the various courses indicated a desire on the part of the managers to give the public the best possible sport under the most pleasing conditions. That their efforts were successful the attendance data after day showed.

Two sensational performers appeared in the East among the juveniles in Morvich and Miss Joy. Whether they will take their place in history among the truly elect of the American thoroughbreds will be shown when they come to the real tests over a distance in 1922 as three-year-olds. Up to the present time they satisfy because of their great speed. The colt has never been beaten and Miss Joy's few defeats should not detract from the fame which she has won by her victories.

Our three-year-olds as a lot were disappointing. Grey Lag being the only one that might be called a top notcher. An unsound horse for the greater part of the year, he was first class only on occasions; and in the hands of a less capable trainer than S. C. HILTON he might not have raced at all after his mishap prior to the Kentucky Derby. When he won the Brooklyn Handicap Grey Lag was a great race horse.

In the older division the feats of Yellow Hand, Purchase, Mad Matter, Audacious, Exterminator and Thunderclap rendered them conspicuous. If Purchase had stood training he would be the champion beyond a doubt. Yellow Hand won more of the big handicaps than any other horse and was better at the close of the season than at any other time. He is a remarkable gelding and a fit adversary for Exterminator, which has now won more money than any other gelding in the world.

There is little to be said in praise

of the jockeyship seen in the East this year. Compared with the riders of the period between 1900 and 1908 the season's jockeys were sadly wanting in skill. Another Father Bill Dax with his school for riders is needed badly.

There was nothing startling in the way of time as compared with the season of 1920, when that superhorse Man o' War was establishing records which will probably remain unbeaten for generations, until another phenomenon, perhaps one of his descendants, comes along to dazzle the racegoers of his time.

A Delaware River Snag.

One of the matters to come before the New Jersey Legislature this winter is the removal of a Delaware River snag which is blocking a great industrial project. It is a legal snag and a very ancient one—138 years old, in fact.

It relates to a question of jurisdiction over the waters of the Delaware River. In 1783 laws were passed by New Jersey and Pennsylvania "to end inconveniences and mischiefs arising from uncertainty of jurisdiction within and on the waters of the Delaware River." The "inconveniences and mischiefs" at that time were chiefly about fish and navigation. They now affect the construction of a series of powerful electric plants designed to make use of the water power of the upper Delaware River between Belvidere, New Jersey, and Port Jervis, New York.

The project contemplates the expenditure of not less, and probably more, than \$100,000,000. It involves the substitution of electricity for steam on the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad—a substitution the company has already decided to make. It is expected that when the water power electric plants are installed three other railroads crossing the Delaware valley will shut off steam and turn on the electric current. Great numbers of manufacturing plants are preparing to draw upon the same source of electric energy once it is there.

The Federal Esch-Cummings act permits the erection of the great electric power stations, but the venerable State statutes of 1783 bring action to a dead halt. They block the way until concurrent action by the New Jersey and Pennsylvania Legislatures removes the obstruction. The laws as they stand not only provide that New Jersey and Pennsylvania shall have concurrent jurisdiction over the river but they also very explicitly declare that they are forever irrevocable by either State without the concurrence of the other.

New Jersey can do her part this winter toward removing the legal barrier, but her action is not valid until Pennsylvania concurs in it. The question of such concurrence cannot be laid before the Pennsylvania Legislature until 1923. Meantime preparations are under way for beginning work soon on the hydraulic development at Port Jervis, for Port Jervis is in New York and New York is not involved in legal obstruction which ties up action along the river between Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Preliminary work can, and perhaps will, be done along this boundary. It is a part of the plan to make the great central power plant at Belvidere, in Warren county, New Jersey, with an enormous dam across the Delaware.

Mr. EMMA VON SAUBERN, aunt of field Marshal von Hindenburg and of the German army in the world war and grandmother of two American soldiers in the same war, one of whom, a machine, was killed in action, died here to-day, aged 92 years.—*News despatch from Rochester.*

Her war reminiscences might be even more interesting than those of her nephew.

When the author of a forthcoming book on the "Comedy of Washington" reaches his chapter on legislation he must not overlook the fact that more than half a century ago the Senate was a body of men who had devoted to discussion of the bill itself.

Speaking on the revenue bill Senator Underwood said:

"All laws ought to be simple and plain if it is possible to make them so. Every law ought to be such that the people who live under it can understand it without hiring a constitutional lawyer to interpret it. It cost millions of dollars to the people of the United States to have the courts interpret a tax law."

He referred to tax laws written before the days of blocs. What will it cost to interpret bloc written laws!

"In actual cash there was only \$27,000," says the story of the latest mail robbery. "The world was in every respect. Not long ago a robbery of \$10,000,000 of that amount of cash would have created as much excitement as if some one had charged 40 cents a pound for lamb chops and, as the saying is, got away with it."

A Witching With. She does not wear a scarlet cloak. This witch of Hallow Eve. Or by a pumpkin-lantern's glow. Her spells unholy weave. No black cat perches on her back. No broomstick whistles in her hand. No goblin gambol at her heels. Or caper by her side.

She's young and fair and dewy-lipped. And most demure and meek. And has a beautiful air. By dimples in her cheek. With her a bluish baby-blue. And her expressive eyes. A roguish sparkle in her depths. Forewarns me she is wise.

She scorns to melt the cryptic load. Or candle light to light. A look, a word, a smile are each. With her a mystic rite. I feel my errand pulse leap. My breast tumultuous heave. So much I fear her potent charms— My witch of Hallow Eve.

MIRNA IRVING.

When belated I hear the cry "Life is lonely!" I reply: "This is but the human lot— Strange that you till now had learned it not!"

I had guessed I was alone: Sometimes pleasure I had known. And had loved my solitude. Spreading like a green and quiet wood. But if I engaged to find Comradeship for which I pined Then I found I was not free— Solitariness so clung to me!

And the word would fall my lip— Word speaking comradeship. Suited to a wifely heart. Where it fluttered softly and apart.

No, I could not find the word By which rightly would be heard 'Tis perpetual hunger—eat! Craving ever, yet not craving all!

(For I oft had lonelier been. When retreat I could not win. And when I could not find a friend In their chosen ways trained me along.)

So I said: "Then, be alone! Do not tempt you have grown. Keep this bond with Loneliness— Only she and you the world possess!"

Only Loneliness and I. Nothing else, and no one by— All of life a floating dream. Imagined in a cosmic micro-stream.

EDITH M. THOMAS.

Night in Rome. One night in Rome when all was still I stood upon the Pincian Hill Looking across the darkling plain. Where Rome, the mighty, lived again.

The crumbling columns in the Forum grew Until their contours shaped anew. Upholding temples, palaces and old. The glorious facade of the Senate's hall.

Once more was Pompey holding out the world. Beneath whose feet the murdered Caesar curled. While mingling with the mists dropped from the sky Gray ghosts of vanished legions flitted by!

DON C. SMITH.

The Attempt to Use the Foch Reception to Advertise Hyman. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The official dignity of the city and the self-respect of the people of the city have been outraged.

Friday we had the proud privilege of welcoming Marshal Foch and General Pershing, the greatest military leaders of all time. The dignity of the occasion could be surpassed only by its solemnity. Marshal Foch comes to this country to take part in a momentous international conference assembled to promote, by lessening the danger of war and devastation, the prosperity, happiness and peace of all the peoples of the world. His presence among us must stir every American heart, must arouse emotions of respect for him and his leadership. Anything less than unqualified dignity in our official welcome is unworthy of our true regard for him, for France and for the Allies.

A luxurious limousine without passengers other than large campaign pictures of Mayor Hyman was near the entrance of the parade of escort, proceeding to the official welcoming party up Broadway. Thus to inject cheap political claptrap into a historic international ceremony is little short of sacrilegious. It does violence to our notion of the fitness of things and puts our hospitality on the political bargain counter.

Perhaps the only comment needed is to bring to the people of the city, whom the Mayor represents officially, knowledge of this occurrence, which I personally witnessed.

Such an incident is sufficient to overwhelm us individually and collectively with feelings of deep shame and humiliation. GEORGE BROOKS COMPTON. New York, October 28.

The Blot in the Parade. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: I enjoyed seeing the famous commander of the allied armies as he passed up Broadway. I was thrilled like thousands of others, but one thing disgusted me.

In the parade preceding Marshal Foch was a costly limousine with pictures of Mayor Hyman in all the windows and on the back was a large cloth poster reading "Vote for Hyman for Mayor." Along with a picture of just how to mark the X.

There were no occupants in the automobile and it was clearly an ordinary election advertisement. This was a gross insult to that famous leader and to the New York public.

HARRY TRUMBULL. New York, October 29.

Abused Central Park. Its Condition an Indictment of the Hyman Administration. To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Once before I seconded the remarks of your correspondent Thomas Maxwell on the abominable abuse and neglect of the public parks, particularly of Central Park. Although in sheer heartlessness and conviction of its futility I have ceased troubling either the papers or what I call the "Hyman protection" with complaints of this state of things, I would beg of your courtesy space to endorse every word of Mr. Maxwell's letter in Thursday's paper.

Also I should like to emphasize the fact that it is not only the lawlessness which needs repression but the mischievous activities of so-called caretaking, which need to be replaced by competent knowledge. It would be, I think, to say which is responsible for the greater devastation or has cost the park more in the destruction of its natural beauties.

Perhaps you will allow me to add that when the possibility of a new civic administration became a practical one I did think of writing you to suggest that due care for the protection of the public parks should form one of the pledges of such administration, but, as I said above, tired of fruitless efforts in the past I decided not to. I concluded that the public at large approved the present squalor and neglect.

I wish to thank Mr. Maxwell for his timely and encouraging letter. R. T. NICKOL. New York, October 29.

A Test of Power. From the Kansas City Star. "Old Rip Ridges, that's been wallerin' in his cave for forty years, was out last night," said Gap Johnson of Rumpus Ridge, Ark. "That dere evangelist is a powerful preacher."

"He shore 'll" returned an acquaintance, "I've heard a mighty, and right when he got the top of his holier'n' at Satan last night, 'dressed if the clock at my home 'd stop!"

Making the Mails Serve Business

Postmaster-General Hays Describes What Has Been Done and What Is Planned to Improve the Service.

More than on any other one thing the nation's business depends on the postal service. Universally, business men do about 75 per cent. of the postal business and should know all about it and have more to say concerning methods of improvement, which I could impress upon business men how earnestly the postal management is looking for suggestions, constructive criticism and complaints of poor service. We want these for a purpose—that there may be action on them. This is absolutely the one best way to improve the service.

We had a representative from the exporters of our country go to Buenos Aires with our own official to attend the Pan-American Postal Congress, now in session there, from which we expect conventions which will facilitate the parcel post and other business with the South American republics.

The savings bankers have advised with us on the postal savings changes which have been recommended to Congress. We are now recommending to Congress a bill to come to Washington in connection with the cost of keeping record of parcel post.

A traffic expert from one of the big railroads of the Northwest to-day Second Assistant Postmaster-General.

We had the general purchasing agent of one of the largest railroads go over carefully our methods of purchasing supplies. The vice-president and expert of one of the big life insurance companies is serving in the department indefinitely without salary, improving working conditions of the postal employees.

The president of one of the largest motor haulage companies in New York city, serving within a year, is going to organize the motor vehicle service of the Post Office Department, which operates almost 4,000 motor trucks and has a personnel of nearly 5,000 people. This service is confined to the delivery of mail within cities.

We are calling to Washington experienced postmasters who deal directly with business men. These postmasters remain here several weeks and sit in on our semi-weekly departmental conferences to keep us in touch with the actual conditions during this formative period.

We have regarded the Post Office Commission of Senate and House as a board of directors and the Joint Postal Commission as an executive committee. They are in touch with everything we are trying to do and the department is in touch with them. On account of the solution of the parcel post problem becomes doubly difficult. It is being approached, however, from every angle, and it is proposed, as rapidly as possible, to meet these conditions without too great a tax upon the public treasury.

The parcel post service has been open to all who wish to use it, and during the transportation difficulties of over a year ago merchants and shippers found the parcel post agency of unexpected advantage. After having used the parcel post and finding it so satisfactory these merchants and shippers have continued its use. We have asked the Joint Postal Commission to ascertain the cost of carrying parcel post matter. It had been stated that there was a large profit in carrying parcel post matter. I am not in a position to state whether or not this is true. I am inclined to feel, after failing to ascertain any reliable basis for this calculation, that there has not been a profit, but a loss.

We are now going into this matter determined to find out in the most reliable and painstaking manner the real cost of carrying parcel post. On account of the solution of the parcel post problem becomes doubly difficult. It is being approached, however, from every angle, and it is proposed, as rapidly as possible, to meet these conditions without too great a tax upon the public treasury.

The special delivery service is receiving increased consideration. On account of this class of mail being handled in the same car with other classes of mail it has suffered some delay. With additional facilities for handling it in transit to be considered it will receive the despatch which the public pays for and expects. There has been no consideration given to increasing the fee. It is now fixed by law at ten cents.

To awaken the public to its loss through its carelessness as to how mail is addressed, how it is prepared and when it is mailed we have to conduct ceaseless campaigns on "Mail Early" and proper addressing of mail. Legends and slogans to arouse public interest in their work and importance, as a matter of course, are being done. On account of this I feel confident that we could accomplish the equivalent of adding many thousands of employees to the department, and it has succeeded. I am determined in all seriousness to go to great lengths to develop in the department the spirit that we are 300,000 partners. The working conditions in many places are unsatisfactory and a large amount of improvement must be made in that direction. There is no doubt about the quality of our employees. They have the brains and they have the hands to do this job well, and now again their full heart is coming into the service.

We are developing a welfare department just as definite in its duties and certain in its functioning as the fiscal department of any other department. Every other large industry of the country has adopted welfare measures. Why has not been seriously attempted before in the Post Office Department? I don't know. Uncle Sam must be just as good a boss as any private employer.

In many of the larger cities the post office buildings are wholly inadequate to meet the constant growth of the postal service. As an illustration, in New York city, where the situation is most acute, there has been no increase in postal facilities since 1912, and yet the growth of postal receipts at that office increased 285 per cent.

The Joint Postal Commission has been working on this problem for some time. They have just submitted a report on the New York city postal problem. In order that we may have a positive assistance in solving this big problem I have appointed a citizens committee, composed of leading business men of New York city to act in an advisory capacity as to the best method of providing the most urgent postal needs at this point, which might apply to the neck of the bottle in other cities.

Recently there has been placed in On Hallowe'en. On Hallowe'en, when colors wane. Beneath October's moon, while grim Asbestos troop with cavaliers. In mimicry that shifts and sheers. In city blaze and hamlets dim.

Valstas carouse with maidens slim. While Puritans wait stiff and prim. And gawdy dispels our tears— On Hallowe'en.

Within, the seething tide ways brim: Madly peer and pray that mirrors thin. A lover's face, 'mid doubts and fears. The hours fly and distant chime— On Hallowe'en.

THOMAS J. MURRAY.

Plenty of Hype and Time. From the Lexington (Mass.) News. The biggest room in the world is not the room for improvement but for argument. And it is always well filled.

Not Pride Alone.

Those Who Accept Free Medical Treatment and Those Who Do Not.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: Dr. S. Josephine Baker is quoted as saying that the highest death rate among children in New York city is not among the poor, ignorant foreign born but among "our self-respecting American families." She attributes this to the pride of the self-respecting American families which prevents them from availing themselves of free medical advice, while foreign born mothers, accustomed to Government care, freely do so.

My experience of fourteen years of medical practice, mostly among foreigners, makes me utterly disagree with the conclusion of Dr. Baker. In the first place, it is not reasonable to suppose that parents would go so far in a mother who is not ignorant as to prompt her to let her children die rather than have recourse to free medical advice. In the second place, it is not true that foreign mothers are accustomed to Government care; there is more Government care for children in this city than there is in any city in continental Europe except Berlin in Germany. Moreover, most immigrants come from small country villages where there is no Government care at all.

During my practice, especially among Italians, French, Spanish and Greeks, I have always found it most difficult to persuade these people to avail themselves of hospitals and dispensaries, while I have always observed that among Irishmen, Germans and Americans recourse to hospitals and dispensaries was a matter of course. Naturally, I am inclined to go to hospitals, dispensaries and public health stations may be foreign born, constituting as they do the bulk of the poorer classes, but these poor when they respect their own pride rather than the pride of the American families. This is proved by the fact that physicians practicing among these foreigners have no such item to contend with as debt, while it is a matter of common knowledge that physicians practicing among American families have to deduct from 25 to 30 per cent. from their billings on account of unpaid bills. This of course does not make a good showing in regard to pride and self-respect.

I therefore believe the explanation given by Dr. Baker as to the higher mortality among the children of the American families is erroneous and has claim about the possible spreading of a lower grade human stock unwarranted.

A. MARCHESSIO, M. D. New York, October 28.

John L. in His Prime.

Facts for Those Who Think Dempsey Could Have Whipped Sullivan.

To THE NEW YORK HERALD: The following opinion appears in "The Listener," a London magazine, in discussing the warship: "There are a lot of men to-day who firmly believe that John L. Sullivan in his prime could have tied one hand behind him and in that condition have licked Dempsey and Willard in the same ring. As a matter of fact Jack Dempsey would probably outclass Sullivan at any time." On the same day on your editorial page, mention of the late Dr. Masterman's official presence at the Sullivan-Kilrain fight.

That battle was fought in a broiling sun; can one doubt that it was just as hot as the Dempsey-Carpentier affair? The sun beat down upon the contestants not for a quick twenty minutes but for an hour and a half. As regards training, whatever Sullivan's methods were it will be agreed, I think, that they were not as thorough as those of the pampered darlings of modern pugilism. As for condition, however, the above mentioned five hours is an indication.

New Year's bellows railway journey just before the fight, Sullivan battled for seventy-five rounds amid intense heat, and after five hours struggle with a powerful and crafty antagonist compelled him to quit. In the fortieth round or thereabouts Sullivan became sick and his backers began to lose hope. But after a wonderful recovery and after thirty more rounds he was, along, this part of the fight alone, as most of the battles these modern birds over fight—pulled out the victory.

I don't say that Sullivan could have beaten Jack Dempsey. But I say that there is as much reasonableness in the opinion that he could as in the opinion that he could not. Maybe Dempsey could go seventy-five rounds against a first class man, but as he has never come anywhere near performing such a feat one guess is as good as another.

Oh, yes, they say Dempsey would finish Sullivan in four or five rounds. They have to say that because there can be little doubt that Sullivan, with endurance John L. would outclass Dempsey. Imagine Dempsey fighting for five hours! He couldn't stand up in the ring that long, let alone beat a first class man at the finish. As for the four or five round idea, the superior cleverness, cleverer things being done, it is well to remember that it took Corbett, whose cleverness none can deny, much longer than that to put away John L. when the latter was only a wreck of what he was when he fought Kilrain.

The old timers may be fond but not fools, at least this time. The argument is fifty-fifty.